United Nations A/C.4/60/SR.16

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
18 November 2005

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 16th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 October 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Anguiano Rodríguez (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Mexico)
later: Mr. Aliyev (Chairman) ..... (Azerbaijan)

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05-56934 (E)

In the absence of the Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan), Ms. Anguiano Rodriguez (Mexico), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 32: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects *(continued)*

1. **Mr. Navoti** (Fiji) said that the five areas of priority identified by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations — people, doctrine, partnership, organization, and resources — were required steps in order to make United Nations peacekeeping more effective.

2. His delegation supported the notion that the Department must preserve the image and integrity of the Organization; misconduct and perceptions of impropriety were unacceptable and detrimental to relations between national contingents and the host Governments and people. He strongly condemned all acts of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by United Nations peacekeeping personnel. It was important to implement the decisions taken earlier in 2005 by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Each troop-contributing country should assure the Secretary-General of its respect for local laws and the exercise of its jurisdiction when allegations against individual members of its contingent were conclusively established, and measures to eliminate abuse and exploitation should be made part of the performance goals of managers and commanders. Furthermore, United Nations personnel must be held financially accountable for harm caused to victims of such exploitation and abuse.

3. He commended the level of support which the Department had provided to a growing number of field activities and special political missions and offices around the world. Referring to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, he paid tribute to the unwavering commitment of the United Nations to ensure the restoration of the country from the devastation of war so that its people could take their rightful place as free citizens of a sovereign State. His country's current contribution to peacekeeping in Baghdad and to the proposed extension of operations elsewhere was a reaffirmation of its recognition and support for the primary responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security as set forth in the Charter.

4. The current rules governing the legal status of United Nations civilian police personnel should be adapted to give them immunities equivalent to those of armed military personnel, since their tasks included the implementation of law and order functions that might require them to use enforcement measures in accordance with their mandates and rules of engagement. The extension of such protection warranted further consideration.

5. The complexity of peacekeeping, in terms of the number of missions mounted and the multi-tasking skills involved, made it essential to address the root causes of conflict in a coherent and coordinated manner. The motives of the Organization as world peacekeepers must be focused on a sincere desire to establish long-lasting peace, security and development.

6. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt) said that the success of peacekeeping operations depended on the balanced participation by, and effective coordination among, the different elements of the international community, including the relevant United Nations organs, troop-contributing countries, regional and subregional organizations, and international donors. In order to be able to deploy forces promptly and to save thousands of lives, the Security Council needed to be able to adopt resolutions and confer mandates swiftly, without interference by interested parties.

7. His delegation looked forward to studying the Under-Secretary-General's ideas for reform during the forthcoming meetings of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It especially welcomed the Secretary-General's personal peacemaking efforts in Africa, which highlighted the need for more coordination between the United Nations and regional forces there. His delegation looked forward to the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission called for in the Outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting. The marshalling of resources for post-conflict reconstruction would shorten the transition between peacekeeping and peacebuilding; that would help to prevent States from sliding back into conflict. As a major contributor to peacekeeping operations in Africa, Egypt had in the past year become a member of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System, had joined the Standby High-Readiness Brigade as an observer, and had contributed to the policing

component of peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti.

8. United Nations peacebuilding efforts in Africa should continue to focus on building Africa's own peacekeeping capacities. A good example was the technical cooperation between the United Nations and the African Mission in Sudan, which did not impinge on African ownership of the field presence in Darfur. In that regard, his delegation applauded the pledges to enhance African peacekeeping capacities that had emerged from the High-level Plenary Meeting in September, the European Union, and the G8 Africa Action Plan approved at the Kananaskis summit in 2002. Egypt itself was currently cooperating with the African Union Commission to supply training and technical support for the creation of a North Africa Brigade envisioned as one of five African regional rapid deployment brigades. It was also working with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide advanced training and capacity-building in the field of peacekeeping, and was eager to see wider African participation in both the military and the policing components of peacekeeping operations.

9. His delegation shared the concern expressed by many others regarding the sexual abuse committed by United Nations peacekeeping personnel and called for adequate measures to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. It also welcomed the report of the Adviser to the Secretary-General, His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, in that regard. At the same time, his delegation expressed its appreciation to those members of peacekeeping missions who carried out their duties in a way that reflected properly on the image of the United Nations and its peacekeeping operations.

10. **Mr. Azeez** (Sri Lanka) said that his country had recently made its first major contribution to United Nations peacekeeping efforts by deploying a battalion of 750 troops to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). He thanked the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its cooperation in that endeavour. He was also pleased to inform the Committee that Sri Lanka had established a Peace Support Training Institute to prepare military personnel for peacekeeping missions.

11. Noting the recent successes of peacekeeping activities aimed at assisting the transition from conflict to peace in several mission areas, he acknowledged that peacekeeping operations had become more complex. In facing the challenge of allocating adequate human and financial resources to watch the increasing demand, the Organization required further cooperation from Member States, and the possibility of the internal reallocation of resources should be explored.

12. As a troop-contributing country, Sri Lanka was concerned for the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel in the field, and it welcomed the action taken by the Secretariat to strengthen inter-departmental cooperation. There might be challenges beyond the reach of the United Nations, and in such cases efforts must be made to establish dialogue among all the parties concerned.

13. He stressed the importance of partnerships and other arrangements for coping with crises and the need for closer coordination among all United Nations agencies, as well as civil society and troop-contributing countries. Incidents of misconduct by peacekeepers were a matter of concern and urgent action should be taken. All relevant aspects must be considered and viable solutions must be found to address and prevent the recurrence of such problems.

14. **Mr. Win** (Myanmar) said that peacekeeping operations must subscribe to the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and respect the principles of the sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that were essentially within their domestic jurisdiction.

15. Noting that peacekeeping operations had increased and become more complex and multi-dimensional, he said that the social, economic, and judicial aspects of such operations had to be addressed from the very beginning, with the involvement of other United Nations agencies, in order to facilitate effective peacebuilding and prevent the recurrence of armed conflict in the long term. It was important that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be efficiently structured and adequately staffed and that its mission leaders should be properly trained. He welcomed the provision of standardized training modules levels II and III for all Member States, as well as the establishment of a senior leadership induction programme. A fresh approach to the recruitment, training and retention of professional field personnel and leaders was indeed necessary.

16. His delegation welcomed the zero tolerance policy towards peacekeepers who had been guilty of sexual abuse and misconduct in the field. The code of conduct must be enforced and violations punished in order to protect the reputation and standing of the United Nations, the peacekeeping missions and the peacekeeping personnel.

17. Measures must be taken to enhance the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel in the field. There must be more coordination between the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to provide integrated security assessments, operational advice and support to crisis management at all levels, including the missions in the field, and there must be better coordination in the sharing of information and intelligence between the centre and the missions.

18. Peacekeeping was a noble cause, and he paid tribute to the blue helmets who had sacrificed their lives or limbs to safeguard international peace and security.

19. **Ms. Qwabe** (South Africa) said that, at a time when the United Nations was being called upon to expand and upgrade its role in a number of conflicts in Africa and other parts of the world, Member States had a responsibility to ensure that the necessary support and resources were provided to enable the Organization to meet its challenges effectively and efficiently. The time had come for all parties to forge partnerships to address logistical deficiencies.

20. Referring to the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of peace and security, she welcomed the decision taken at the 2005 World Summit in that regard. It would greatly assist the African Union as it embarked on its peace and security action plan; in many situations regional organizations were well placed to intervene sooner than United Nations processes would allow. She welcomed the decision to enhance peacekeeping capacity in Africa through a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union. Logistics remained the most critical weakness in peacekeeping, and for that reason she welcomed the establishment of the African Peace Facility by the European Union. The role of regional structures, however, should be not construed as absolving the United Nations of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

21. She also welcomed the creation of a standing civilian police capacity; that would help to overcome some of the constraints in the deployment of civilian police.

22. The concept of strategic reserve entailed a number of elements that required further work, but her delegation believed that it had the potential to meet the demands posed by difficult conflict situations. The African Union had also recognized the potential value of reserves by agreeing to establish a Standby Force to enable the African contingent to intervene rapidly to avert conflicts. States members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had pledged forces in excess of 6,000 soldiers to a standby brigade and had begun joint exercises in peace support operations.

23. It had been widely documented that the main drivers for conflict in Africa were resource-based and therefore inherently economic by nature. Military-focused approaches often ignored the developmental and economic factors that were both the source and resolution of conflicts. Her delegation therefore encouraged an integrated approach that incorporated peacebuilding during the start-up of a peacekeeping mission. Post-conflict practitioners and resources should be deployed alongside peacekeepers to guarantee a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

24. She joined previous speakers in condemning the abusive acts committed against women and children, and commended the high level of professionalism, courage and dedication displayed by the overwhelming majority of peacekeepers, some of whom had lost their lives in the service of peace.

25. **Mr. Okio** (Congo) drew attention to the financial and material limitations placed on the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations, and appealed to Member States to support the Organization in meeting its challenges. He also stressed the need for sustained cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, including non-governmental organizations.

26. With specific reference to Africa, he said that, although considerable progress had been achieved and the number of conflict situations in the region had been reduced, the international community needed to pay greater attention to countries that were economically fragile, in their daily struggle against poverty and underdevelopment. He paid tribute to the African

Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for settling conflicts affecting countries of those subregions through peace negotiations, and for providing good offices for the conclusion of peace agreements and the deployment of peacekeeping forces, as had occurred in the case of the Darfur crisis. Regional bodies could certainly play a more active role in international peacekeeping and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the fight against terrorism and the control of small arms and light weapons. The Security Council had urged States and relevant international organizations to participate in capacity-building in the area of conflict prevention, crisis management and stabilization and welcomed the establishment of the European Union African Peace Facility. His delegation strongly supported all efforts made to enhance peacekeeping, capacity-building, cooperation between the United Nations and regional bodies, and strategic partnerships.

27. He underscored the need for a global strategy to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse. The international community should do its utmost to ensure that those who committed such acts did not enjoy impunity and particular attention should be paid to the training of all categories of peacekeeping personnel. His delegation fully endorsed the recommendations relating to the living conditions and working conditions of peacekeepers, the use of independent investigators to pursue allegations of abuse, gender issues, and compensation to the victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. His delegation also supported the recommendation in the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit, whereby regional organizations that had a capacity for the prevention of armed conflict or peacekeeping were invited to consider the option of placing such capacity in the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System. In that vein, interaction between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the proposed Peacebuilding Commission would benefit from clearly defined mandates and complementarity.

28. **Mr. Kapoma** (Zambia) commended the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on its effectiveness in conducting the current 18 peacekeeping operations, and praised the African Union for taking the lead, through its Peace and Security Council, in addressing peacekeeping challenges on the African continent, as in Darfur. The United Nations and strategic partners should provide support to ensure the sustainability of such operations, particularly in the areas of doctrine, training standards, logistical support, planning, management and funding. Since Africa was the continent most affected by conflicts, priority should be given to the development of the African Standby Force, which would not only meet African Union peacekeeping needs, but also serve as a United Nations strategic reserve. His delegation supported the adoption of preventive strategies to guard against sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel, and favoured the establishment of conduct and discipline units.

29. **Mr. Dolgov** (Russian Federation) said that, in view of the increasing number and complexity of United Nations peacekeeping operations, the development of a peacekeeping doctrine integrating the theory and practice of the Organization was long overdue and required collective efforts by the Member States. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the most appropriate body for such work and for defining the peacekeeping terminology. The settlement of individual conflicts required tools suited to each particular case, be it a United Nations peacekeeping operation, or a coalition or regional operation, and there must be sufficient flexibility to provide a range of responses to complex crises. There was a need to strengthen the legal framework of peacekeeping in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the decisions of the Security Council and the 2005 World Summit Outcome in order to provide a real alternative to unilateral approaches to the settlement of crisis situations. It was essential to abide by international peacekeeping principles at all stages of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding and, above all, to recognize the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The connection between post-conflict social and economic recovery and peacemaking justified the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission, within the time frame envisaged in the World Summit Outcome, to serve as a focal point for peacebuilding activities and to assist the Security Council and other United Nations bodies in ensuring the early rehabilitation of countries emerging from crisis and preventing a resurgence of violence.

30. As a follow-up to the World Summit, regional organizations which had a potential to prevent armed conflict or engage in peacekeeping should be

encouraged to contribute to the United Nations Stand-by Arrangements System. The United Nations and the Security Council should pay close attention to improved coordination and cooperation with those organizations, while maintaining the prerogatives of the Organization. Recourse to military expertise during the discussion of a draft resolution in the Security Council and in the planning and execution of a peacekeeping operation could be ensured through the Military Staff Committee. An operational civilian police component in the Secretariat would provide early and effective coordination and expertise to promote the rule of law as a basis for comprehensive conflict resolution. Cooperation among the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat should take place in accordance with Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) through the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, and, in particular, the mechanism referred to in the note by the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56).

31. It was inadmissible that parties to a conflict should unlawfully hold United Nations peacekeeping personnel hostage, as had occurred in Ethiopia and Eritrea. The Russian Federation intended to increase its direct contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations, to promote the peacekeeping capacity of other countries, inter alia through training, and to provide peacekeeping assistance to African countries.

32. **Mr. Kidane** (Ethiopia), noting the Department's cooperation with the African Union through the United Nations assistance cell in Addis Ababa, said that additional resources were required in order to enhance the peacekeeping capacities of the African Union. The United Nations and other partners should provide support in the areas of training, logistics and equipment in order to enable the African Union and subregional organizations to deal with conflicts. His country, along with other countries, had played an important role in the establishment of the East African Standby Brigade.

33. His delegation supported the five priority areas identified by the Under-Secretary-General and attached great importance to the need for coherent system-wide coordination in the planning, conduct and support of integrated missions. It looked forward to the completion of the inter-agency review and the institutionalization of the Integrated Mission Planning Process, both at Headquarters and in the field. His delegation fully supported the Department's zero tolerance policy with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse.

34. **Mr. Lau Yeng Peng** (Malaysia) said that the growing complexity and increasingly multidimensional nature of some current conflicts presented the Organization with a continuous challenge, and it would be unable to continue to fulfil its central role in maintaining international peace and security without the commitment and support of all United Nations agencies, Member States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed the mechanism established by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to create synergy between various United Nations bodies, intergovernmental entities and non-governmental organizations.

35. The Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit should be strengthened. In view of the level of resources available and the growing demand for peacekeeping missions, the Department should be restructured and Member States, particularly countries with well-equipped and well-trained military personnel, should increase their voluntary contributions and actively participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations by providing troops, staff officers or military observers.

36. The United Nations should further help to enhance the peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding capacities of regional organizations or arrangements, especially by providing advisory, logistic and financial support. Regional initiatives, however, could not absolve the United Nations of its responsibility to promote peace; moreover, they should be governed by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

37. Malaysia was currently actively involved in many United Nations peacekeeping missions, providing military observers, staff officers, civilian police personnel and, when required, troops. The security and safety of all peacekeeping personnel should be a collective concern of the international community and he condemned the acts of violence against them. Cooperation between the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be further strengthened and the Joint Mission Analysis Cell should be reinforced.

38. **Mr. Al-Otmi** (Yemen) said that peacekeeping operations played a vital role in the restoration of peace and security in post-conflict situations and in helping States to achieve prosperity and development. His delegation applauded both the Secretary-General's report on shortcomings in peacekeeping operations and the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809), known as the Brahimi report, which had become a core peacekeeping document. It affirmed the need for wider participation in peacekeeping operations in order to give them a truly global character.

39. He strongly condemned the killing and abduction of United Nations personnel and conveyed his condolences to the victims' families. Tighter security was needed at United Nations missions in order to safeguard those who dedicated their lives to the maintenance of peace and security throughout the world. Yemen had sent military observers and police officers to Liberia, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, and the Sudan, and expected to increase its participation in the future. The assistance provided by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the training of peacekeeping units in Yemen was much appreciated, even though that had somewhat delayed the participation of those units in peacekeeping operations. His delegation supported the decision by the High-level Plenary Meeting to create a Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the establishment of a genuine triangular partnership among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing States.

40. Sexual abuse by United Nations personnel was a stain on the Organization's reputation, and his delegation supported the recommendations of the Adviser to the Secretary-General, His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, on that issue. He was certain that the peace-loving peoples of the world were equal to the challenges that lay ahead.

41. **Mr. Ohlson** (United States of America) associated his delegation with those which had called for a greater commitment to responsible management in peacekeeping, especially in relation to conduct and discipline. Sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers was a scourge that had to be eliminated and every Member State had a duty to investigate and prosecute any of its citizens involved in such crimes.

42. The time had come for a full and comprehensive review of the conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In the interests of addressing the underlying conflicts and maximizing the effective use of limited resources, there must be a willingness to examine whether a peacekeeping mission was prolonging a stalemate by failing to exert sufficient pressure on the parties to resolve their differences through political or diplomatic means. Where that was the case, it was important to find ways to invigorate the peace process or to begin to scale back, restructure, or close down the operation concerned. A clear exit strategy had to be in place from the start of a peacekeeping operation. As soon as peacekeepers had brought the active phase of a conflict under control, efforts should be made to distinguish between the tasks to be undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and those to be handled by other actors, including the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations and bilateral partners. Some missions would and should have limited goals and be correspondingly limited as to size and resources. Peacekeeping operations should never be a substitute for a political process aimed at complete conflict resolution leading to long-term and sustainable peace, development and security. Work had been carried out to identify common elements of successful peacekeeping missions for possible replication, and criteria could also be developed to identify which missions were ripe for innovative action in order to move ahead towards a final peace.

43. **Mr. Ruiz Rosas** (Peru) said that the nature and structure of peacekeeping operations had changed in recent years in response to the multidimensional character of intra-State conflicts. The military capacity and the civilian police component of missions had been enhanced and the United Nations agencies had increasingly focused on political and social issues. That process of adaptation, however, should not keep the international community from addressing the common denominators of civil intra-State conflicts, namely poverty, exclusion and marginalization. The future Peacebuilding Commission should propose multilateral conflict-prevention strategies and policies that would promote development for all.

44. Since rapid deployment was a key factor in peacekeeping operations, Member States should contribute troops to the Organization's strategic

reserves voluntarily, unconditionally and under a standing mandate. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should provide clear guidelines in that regard.

45. The proposed measures concerning the improvement of staff training, the development of a pragmatic doctrine for peacekeeping operations and the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations deserved serious consideration. Sexual abuse and exploitation by United Nations peacekeepers were shameful and intolerable and should be punished.

46. Peru had increased its participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations, for instance in Haiti. It was ready to contribute to training activities organized by the Department and would make its infrastructure and experience available.

47. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya) said that the achievement of peace and stability was one of his country's key national objectives so that more energy could be devoted to development rather than to conflict resolution. It was currently engaged in eight United Nations peacekeeping operations.

48. Most peacekeeping operations were in Africa. Those undertaken in collaboration with the African Union in Sierra Leone, Burundi and Liberia had reduced conflict and enabled post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts to commence, and elections had been held successfully in those countries during the past year. He particularly commended the troop-contributing countries for offering the men and women who promoted peace, and whose courage was the inspirational face of the United Nations.

49. Kenya embraced the comprehensive African position established during the open-ended consultations and urged flexibility in order that there should be regional and subregional participation in the Peacebuilding Commission. He commended the African Union, in particular its Peace and Security Council, for having identified the need for a comprehensive collective security architecture for Africa. He welcomed the plans to establish an African standby force, and hoped that the international community would support the African Union in its efforts to realize its goals. He commended the Secretary-General's report on the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity. With support from the international community, the African Union could play a leading and meaningful role in containing and deterring armed conflict in Africa. African troops were available for deployment, for example in Darfur, but more financial, technical and, especially, logistical resources were now required. It was important to explore the possibilities of turning over equipment from United Nations missions that were closing down. The Secretary-General's strategic reserve initiative would help to make adequate reserve capability available.

50. Kenya was actively participating in efforts to rid the world of mines, and in 2004 had hosted the First Review Conference of the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty. Demining was vital to the overall success of peacekeeping operations, and Kenyan troops were currently participating in demining activities as part of various United Nations peacekeeping missions. Adequate planning was required when military demining operations were combined with demining for humanitarian purposes, particularly when they were performed by non-military organizations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should engage more closely with troop-contributing countries on that issue.

51. His delegation shared the Secretary-General's deep concern about the incidents of sexual abuse and exploitation and supported his zero tolerance policy. His Government was committed to ensuring that Kenyan peacekeepers were adequately trained to maintain the highest standards of discipline.

52. *Mr. Aliyev, Azerbaijan, took the Chair.*

53. **Mr. Bailly** (Côte d'Ivoire) welcomed the high level of priority accorded to personnel issues by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and noted that his Government had ratified the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. A peacekeeping mission was currently working in his country, mostly without incident in the area under Government control. He thanked the troop-contributing countries for the protection they had provided to those living in conflict areas. The Secretary-General's policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse was appropriate; the Department's commitment to improving staff training and selection would reduce cases of improper conduct by peacekeepers.

54. A critical situation had prevailed in his country since the failed coup d'état of 2002 and cooperation between the Economic Community of West African

States (ECOWAS), the African Union and the United Nations had led to the adoption of Security Council resolution 1633 (2005). That illustrated the importance of working in partnership.

55. Cooperation with the World Bank was also vital, as finance was an essential component of crisis resolution and long-term peace. It was a mistake to suspend economic cooperation with a country such as his which had made considerable efforts to protect its economy and honoured most of its external commitments.

56. Securing the borders of a country in conflict must be the highest of all priorities; borders were permeable when insufficient resources were available. He commended the recent resolution requiring neighbouring countries to prevent cross border movement of combatants and weapons into his country.

57. Peacekeeping operations must respect the principles of impartiality and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and should never be used to interfere in a State's internal affairs.

58. **Mr. Kruljević** (Serbia and Montenegro) said that, five years after the issuance of the Brahimi report, there were still gaps in the reform process. He agreed with the Under-Secretary-General's view that that process had been overtaken by the scope and complexity of contemporary peacekeeping operations. The planning and execution of peacekeeping operations needed to be reviewed. A realistic and objective assessment of the experience gained from peacekeeping operations to date was essential, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations must open its eyes to the realities in the field.

59. In that connection, numerous reports on the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) had unfortunately enumerated only positive developments in the province of Kosovo and Metohija, and had minimized or failed to mention substantial problems; serious difficulties had all too often been overlooked by UNMIK. That was why developments had taken the course that they had in the province and why virtually none of the tasks UNMIK had been mandated to carry out had been accomplished adequately.

60. Sustainable peace could not be built without effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration or without the rule of law or respect for human rights. Unfortunately, the involvement of the United Nations in those areas had shown a mixed record. The proposed Peacebuilding Commission should galvanize action to define concepts and strategies while avoiding a uniform approach. Reliance on lessons learned from various missions would be important.

61. A number of conclusions could be drawn from the performance of UNMIK. One was that effective disarmament was critical for the overall achievement of stability: the failure of UNMIK in that regard was the principal reason for the volatile security situation and the widespread violence in Kosovo and Metohija. Another conclusion was that the establishment of the rule of law required international judges and prosecutors to administer justice, especially in the case of ethnically motivated crimes and organized crime; UNMIK had used mostly civilian police and an insufficient number of international judicial staff, and that had paved the way for the emergence of a culture of impunity. Recent developments indicated that UNMIK had unfortunately learned very little on that score. Since there was almost no reason to believe that the local judiciary would soon be able to perform the functions currently carried out by international personnel, the decision to begin withdrawing the international personnel was premature and should be reconsidered.

62. In peacekeeping missions in general the issue of discipline was important. He condemned the recent deplorable incidents of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers and urged the Secretariat to spare no effort in dealing with misconduct firmly, in order to safeguard the credibility of the operation in question and the confidence of the local population. His country was extremely concerned about the alleged systemic corruption within UNMIK in relation to the publicly owned enterprises, referred to in the latest report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Once the investigations were complete, those responsible must be punished, and all cases of corruption should be brought to the attention of the Security Council.

Agenda item 26: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (*continued*)

Draft resolution V on the question of Tokelau (A/60/23, chap. XII, sect. E and A/C.4/60/L.5)

63. **Ms. Takaku** (Papua New Guinea) drew attention to the amendments to draft resolution V sponsored by Papua New Guinea and Fiji (A/C.4/60/L.5). She read out the amendments, noting that, in paragraph 2, before the phrase "from that date", the phrase "with effect from 1 July 2004 and the assumption by each taupulega" should also be deleted.

64. **Mr. McIvor** (New Zealand), referring both to the draft resolution and to the amendments to it, said that his Government, as the administering Power, believed it was important to reflect the latest developments. The referendum would be held in Tokelau between 6 and 10 December 2005 and would require a full week to allow for voting in each of the three island villages on separate days; the results would be released at the end of the voting. He was pleased to announce that the United Nations had accepted the invitation by New Zealand and Tokelau to send a team to monitor the integrity of the process and to report the results to the General Assembly early in 2006. His Government hoped that Tokelau would move to free association status in the second quarter of 2006.

65. *The amendments contained in document A/C.4/60/L.5 to draft resolution V were adopted without a vote.*

66. *Draft resolution V, contained in document A/60/23, chap. XII, sect. E, as amended, was adopted without a vote.*

67. **Ms. Joseph** (Saint Lucia) speaking in explanation of her delegation's position, said that it had joined in the consensus because it regarded the process under way in the Territory of Tokelau as a model for others to follow. It congratulated the Government of Tokelau on its steadfast commitment to the advancement of its people, as they moved towards free association, one of the three political status options recognized by the General Assembly as providing a full measure of self-government. It also expressed appreciation to the Government of New Zealand for its support throughout the process.

68. The full participation of the Government of New Zealand in the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was an expression of support for the positive role that the United Nations could play in the decolonization of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and she hoped that the remaining administering Powers would resume their participation in the Special Committee's work in keeping with the wishes of the people of the Territories they administered and with the Charter of the United Nations.

Agenda item 29: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.4/60/L.6

69. **Mr. Abiodun** (Nigeria), speaking as Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole, introduced the draft resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/C.4/60/L.6). A spirit of cooperation had prevailed throughout the three meetings on the draft resolution. Comments had also been made in the Working Group on the draft study on the possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of realistically optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management, which had been prepared as agreed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

70. The draft resolution before the Committee covered the work that COPUOS and its two subsidiary bodies would be doing during the coming year. Its text was very similar to that adopted on the subject the previous year, although a new ninth preambular paragraph had been added. Paragraphs 3 to 16 of the draft resolution related to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee and that of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

71. He drew particular attention to paragraphs 19 to 25, dealing with regional cooperation and activities; paragraphs 36 and 37, referring to activities by the agencies of the United Nation system; paragraph 38, regarding international cooperation; paragraphs 39 and 47 to 53, on the work COPUOS would do at its forty-ninth session; paragraphs 54 to 58, on the composition of the Committee's Bureau for the next four years; paragraphs 40 to 43 on the projected activities of

COPUOS and the progress it had made in implementing the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III); paragraphs 44 to 46, on the activities and financial situation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs; and paragraph 60, regarding the granting of permanent observer status in COPUOS to the European Space Policy Institute.

72. The Working Group of the Whole had agreed on the text of the draft resolution by consensus, and he hoped that the Committee would adopt it without a vote.

73. *Draft resolution A/C.4/60/L.6 was adopted without a vote.*

74. **Mr. De la Batie** (France) speaking in explanation of his delegation's position, said that, like those of the other European Union countries, his delegation had joined the consensus on the important resolution that had just been adopted and endorsed the work programme it set out for COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies. His delegation wished, however, to express dissatisfaction with the way the draft resolution had been prepared, which had run counter to the principle of multilingualism and the parity of all the official languages. The establishment of a Working Group of the Whole was a good idea, but the draft resolution had been submitted in only one language and discussed only in that language. Despite repeated requests, his delegation had not received a French text until five days after the Working Group had concluded its work; that situation could not be justified by past practice or by a lack of time. His delegation might reconsider its participation in the Working Group of the Whole the following year unless draft resolutions were submitted in all the official languages for discussion.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.